

BOOK REVIEWS

CLINICAL UROLOGY, ESSENTIALS OF DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT. Second Edition. By Lowrain E. McCrea, M.D., Clinical Professor of Urology, Temple University Medical School. 265 illustrations, 7 color plates. F. A. Davis Company, Publishers, Philadelphia, 1948. \$6.50.

This is a treatise for the general practitioner and part-time urologist. It is a ready reference work as an aid in the diagnosis and treatment of urologic conditions usually seen in the office. Many techniques and therapeutic procedures are concisely outlined and drugs which the author has found of value are described in detail. Data on the most recent use of the sulfonamides and antibiotics have been brought up to date, not in a single or separate chapter, but in association with the variously described pathologic conditions. A number of rare and unusual conditions, some almost medical curiosities, are described at length with numerous photographs. There are many good illustrations, some depicting pathologic conditions, other schematically showing the technique of various urologic procedures. The type used is large and clear, the paper good and the book easy to read.

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BAILEY'S TEXTBOOK OF HISTOLOGY. Revised by Philip E. Smith, Ph.D., Professor of Anatomy, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, and Wilfred M. Copenhaver, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Anatomy, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Maryland, 1948. \$7.00. 800 pages, 455 illustrations. Twelfth Edition.

Of the standard textbooks of medical histology this one, now in its twelfth edition, presents the subject in a highly lucid manner and is certainly one of the outstanding books in the field. The illustrations which accompany the text are numerous, well chosen, and clearly reproduced. The revisions in this edition correct a number of faulty portions of the previous volume and include the results of many recent developments.

The book is organized into 22 chapters of which the first three are devoted to considerations of the cell and to development. Of unique interest in this connection is Chapter II, which discusses the structure and function of living cells and the methods by which such observations of living cells are established. Within the 20 pages of this chapter a concise and stimulating introduction to the vast and ever-widening field of cellular physiology is presented to the student. The next seven chapters are devoted to a consideration of the tissues of the body, while the remaining 12 describe the organ systems.

Considerable repetition of ideas is to be noted in the three chapters devoted to nervous tissue and the nervous system which take up one-eighth of the entire text. Some of the material presented is more appropriate to a text of neuroanatomy. It is suggested by the reviewer that the space devoted to this subject be condensed into a single, more concise chapter.

The authors' intent is that this text be primarily for the use of first-year medical and dental students and for this purpose it is admirably suited in clarity and conciseness of description, judicious handling of controversial points and nicety of illustration. The inclusion of a few key references for each chapter may stimulate the reader to further exploration within the limits of his time.

The reviewer is of the opinion that the text, while in no sense a complete reference work, deserves a place in the library of the practicing physician, the research worker, and the biological scientist because of its able and broad coverage of the subject of histology.

TREATMENT OF HEART DISEASE. By William A. Brams, M.S., M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, Northwestern University Medical School, and Attending Physician, Michael Reese Hospital, Chicago. New, First Edition. 195 pages, with 11 figures. Philadelphia & London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1948. Price \$3.50.

This book is a compact discussion of cardiac therapy and is a sound, conservative, practical discussion of the subject. The author is well qualified to guide the practitioner in this important sphere of medicine and has produced a very comprehensive book despite its relatively small size. In addition to the usual systematic discussion, Dr. Brams has included excellent chapters on the pharmacology of drugs such as digitalis, quinidine, the mercurials, etc., that are used in the treatment of heart disease.

A few minor criticisms may be of value. In the treatment of cardiac failure, the author advocates absolute bed rest and in the interest of the patient's comfort, advises a rolled pillow under the knees (p. 54). The dangers of venous thrombosis by this procedure were not noted by the author and most cardiologists would hesitate to advise anything that increases the risk of embolic complications in a severely ill chronic cardiac patient. The therapeutic value of aminophylline in acute pulmonary edema has been minimized by the author (p. 71), especially in view of the work of McMichael and his associates who demonstrated a marked fall in right atrial pressure and a rise in cardiac output in patients with left ventricular failure. The author advises a single oral dose of 1.2 mg. of digitoxin when cardiac failure occurs after myocardial infarction (p. 85). The dangers of inducing ventricular arrhythmias and of inducing vomiting with a single large dose of digitoxin are such that divided doses are preferable. On page 100 Brams states that slowing of the ventricles to a normal range is a satisfactory therapeutic result in the treatment of auricular flutter. The danger of a sudden decrease in A. V. block with abrupt doubling of the ventricular rate and possibility of acute symptoms is a good reason for advising further attempts to produce a normal rhythm by increasing the amount of digitalis or utilizing quinidine in all cases in which no contraindication exists.

In the next edition it would be advisable to expand the important chapter on congenital heart disease and pericarditis. These are given inadequate treatment. Further data on the use of massive doses of penicillin in subacute bacterial endocarditis with resistant organisms would also be important. On page 118, the author implies that 6,000,000 units daily is the maximum dose used. The use of fourfold this amount is not uncommon. The possibilities of the therapeutic use of streptomycin were not discussed.

Despite the above criticisms, the book can be recommended as a valuable and practical discussion of the current methods of treatment of heart disease.

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PHYSICIAN'S HANDBOOK, FIFTH EDITION. By John Warkentin, Ph.D., M.D., and Jack D. Lange, M.S., M.D., University Medical Publishers, P. O. Box 761, Palo Alto, California. Price \$2.00.

The value of this compact handbook is attested by the appearance of a new edition within two years. As the authors have stated in their preface, the purpose of the book was to summarize concisely, clearly and comprehensively, diagnostic procedures, factual data and other reference data serviceable for many types of medical practice. In the reviewer's opinion, the authors have succeeded admirably and this book can be recommended as one of the most complete pocket reference manuals available. The